UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/672
19 August 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 19 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit the following message from His Excellency Mr. Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, dated 16 August 1996, and request that this document be circulated as a document of the Security Council

(Signed) Afonso "MBINDA" VAN-DUNEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 16 August 1996 from the President of Angola addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to address you as President of the Security Council of the United Nations to discuss matters of the greatest importance in the current stage of the peace process in Angola.

The strict implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, for which the Government of Angola and the international community, especially the United Nations and the troika of observer nations, have not minced efforts, represents the necessary condition leading to true national reconciliation and the establishment of an effective and lasting peace in Angola.

In this context, the Government of Angola welcomed with confidence and satisfaction the most recent Security Council resolution extending the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) and once again witnessed the engagement of this United Nations body in the settlement of the Angolan issue.

Nevertheless, with considerable apprehension, we have come to realize that the most important tasks in the peace process are being continuously postponed, a concern shared by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his report to the most recent Security Council session devoted to Angola. As a matter of fact, the dynamics imparted to the peace process after my last meeting with Dr. Savimbi in Libreville has come to a standstill in the last few weeks, increasing distrust and doubts regarding the real intentions of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA). This is happening because UNITA continues to deliberately delay compliance with the main clauses of the Peace Accords, in spite of the actions taken by my Government to address UNITA's concerns and enhance the climate of mutual cooperation and confidence.

As you may realize in the listing of issues presented by the Government of Angola, this question is particularly serious because it shows a clear tendency towards paralysis in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and prompts us to request that the Security Council take most urgent action.

The concerns listed above by the Government of Angola can be summarized by the fact that UNITA has not effectively vacated the areas it illegally occupies, and in replacement of its troops, UNITA deployed so-called police forces. It has not as yet completed the quartering of its true military forces nor has it laid down its quality weapons and lethal matériel.

Concerning the setting up of a single national army, the cornerstone of the peace process, this goal is yet to be accomplished because UNITA, contravening the commitments it had made, failed to induct its general officers into the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) and at the same time creates impediments to the process of selection and induction of its troops into the FAA.

The Angolan State authority is not yet established throughout the country because UNITA, in spite of the enormous efforts carried out by UNAVEM III, continues to hamper the free transit of goods and persons and to curtail the efforts to extend the administration of the State throughout the national territory.

Finally, in the constitutional and political area, UNITA is yet to convey to the Government of Angola its opinions regarding the constitutional configuration of the political arrangements deriving from the Franceville and Libreville meetings.

From the foregoing, you may realize that the essential building blocks of the peace process are yet to materialize, a fact that hampers its completion.

In the light of these facts, the Government of the Republic of Angola has the honour to suggest that the Security Council take the most urgent and appropriate action for the immediate completion of the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, including the adoption of a final calendar with a definition of tasks and obligations. We therefore suggest that, no later than 25 August 1996, a decision be issued for the induction of UNITA general officers into the armed forces of Angola; the conclusion of the selection and induction process for UNITA troops into the armed forces of Angola and the disbanding of the surplus troops, together with the completion of consultations for the political and constitutional arrangements made at Franceville and Libreville.

Within the context of this sequence of events, we also suggest that the Security Council urge UNITA to ensure the free transit of goods and persons by no later than 5 September 1996, and the extension of the Angolan State administration throughout the national territory. Ultimately, along these lines, the completion of the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol could take place by 5 September 1996 with the installation of the UNITA representatives as members of the National Assembly and the setting up of the Government of National Unity and Reconciliation.

The Government of the Republic of Angola considers as an important and timely fact the approval in principal of a Security Council mission to Angola to be dispatched as soon as possible in order to assess the degree of execution of the Peace Accords and to recommend measures designed to step up the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol.

In closing, I would like to reaffirm the commitment of the Government of Angola to peace and national reconciliation and its total willingness to collaborate closely with UNITA and the international community, particularly the United Nations and the troika of observers, towards the successful completion of the peace process in Angola.

You are kindly requested to convey the text of this letter to the other members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jose Eduardo DOS SANTOS
President of the Republic of Angola